

Rediscovery of *Siphonops annulatus* (Mikan, 1820) (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Siphonopidae) in the state of Pará, Brazil, with an updated geographic distribution map, and notes on size and variation

Adriano Oliveira Maciel^{1*}, Henrique Caldeira Costa², Leandro de Oliveira Drummond³, Jerriane Oliveira Gomes¹ and Annelise D'Angiolella¹

¹ Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Departamento de Zoologia. Avenida Perimetral, 1901 - Terra Firme. CEP 66077-530. Belém, PA, Brazil.

² Universidade Federal de Viçosa – Campus Florestal, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas. CEP 35690-000. Florestal, MG, Brazil.

³ Autonomous Researcher. Rua Chaves Faria, 534/202, Bairro São Cristóvão. CEP CEP 20910-140. Rio de Janeiro RJ, Brazil.

* Corresponding author. E-mail: aombiologo@yahoo.com.br

ABSTRACT: *Siphonops annulatus* has a wide distribution in South America. Here we provide a new geographic distribution map for this species and two new records from the state of Pará, Brazil, from where it has not been reported since 1876. A specimen collected in the municipality of Senador José Porfírio is the largest specimen of *S. annulatus* ever recorded.

Caecilian amphibians (Gymnophiona) are distributed mainly across the wet tropics, but also occur in subtropical regions (Gower and Wilkinson 2005). The fossorial, semiaquatic or aquatic habit of the known species hamper the collection of specimens, although recent data shows that some species are much more abundant than has been assumed (Maciel and Hoogmoed 2011).

Siphonops annulatus (Mikan, 1820) is the caecilian with the largest distribution (Wilkinson *et al.* 2008), occurring throughout most of Cis-Andean South America. Although commonly documented in several localities over its distribution, this species was not found in the state of Pará since 1876 when Spengel received in Hamburg, Germany, some specimens of *S. annulatus* from “Pará”, as the current municipality of Belém was named at that time (Spengel 1915).

Herein, we report two new localities for *Siphonops*

annulatus in Pará. All specimens were collected in pitfall traps (collection permit numbers: 01/11; Process 02018.001265/2010-41-NUFAP/IBAMA and 1325/2011 SEMA/PA), and deposited in the collection of the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Belém. Two specimens (male MPEG 33733, 282 mm total length; male MPEG 33734, 220 mm total length) were collected in the municipality of Itaituba (06°19'12" S, 55°47'24" W, elevation 270 m) and a single specimen (Figure 1) in the municipality of Senador José Porfírio (male, MPEG 32559; 03°35'19" S, 51°57'00" W, elevation 165 m). The latter specimen measures 539 mm total length, greater than the previous reported maximum size of 450 mm for *S. annulatus* (Taylor 1968).

Both specimens from Itaituba have 79 annuli and the specimen from Senador José Porfírio has 91 annuli. This character ranges from 78–98 in *S. annulatus* (Taylor



FIGURE 1. Specimens of *Siphonops annulatus* from Pará, Brazil. Left: MPEG 33734, 220 mm total length, municipality of Itaituba (photo by AOM); Right: MPEG 32559, 539 mm total length, municipality of Senador José Porfírio (Photo by LOD).

1968), and presents a low geographic variation, even in a ca. 4000 km long distribution range; a similar condition is observed in other Neotropical caecilian species with wide distribution (Savage and Wake 2001; Maciel and Hoogmoed 2011).

Maciel and Hoogmoed (2011) present a geographic distribution map for *Siphonops annulatus*, which lacks some literature records. An updated map is in Figure 2, with locality descriptions and coordinates in Appendix 1. Two literature records were not considered by us: i) Borges-Nojosa and Cascon (2005) presented a record from Reserva Natural Serra das Almas, in the Brazilian state of Ceará; however, when visiting the collection of Universidade Federal do Ceará, AOM did not find any specimen that could be identified as *S. annulatus*. ii) Lima

et al. (2006) present a photograph of two caecilians from Reserva Adolpho Ducke, state of Amazonas, one of them referred as *S. annulatus*; the specimen, however, appears to be a member of the genus *Caecilia*, not *Siphonops*. Thus, to the best of our knowledge, the occurrence of *S. annulatus* in Ceará, and in the Reserva Adolpho Ducke, remains unconfirmed.

The absence of records of *Siphonops annulatus* from the large open vegetation diagonal of Brazil, composed of the Caatinga, Cerrado, and Pantanal-Chaco morphoclimatic domains or biomes (sensu Ab'Sáber 1977), is noteworthy. This distribution pattern can be explained by the lack of collections in those regions or, more likely, by historical causes, but only a phylogeographic study of the species will elucidate this question.

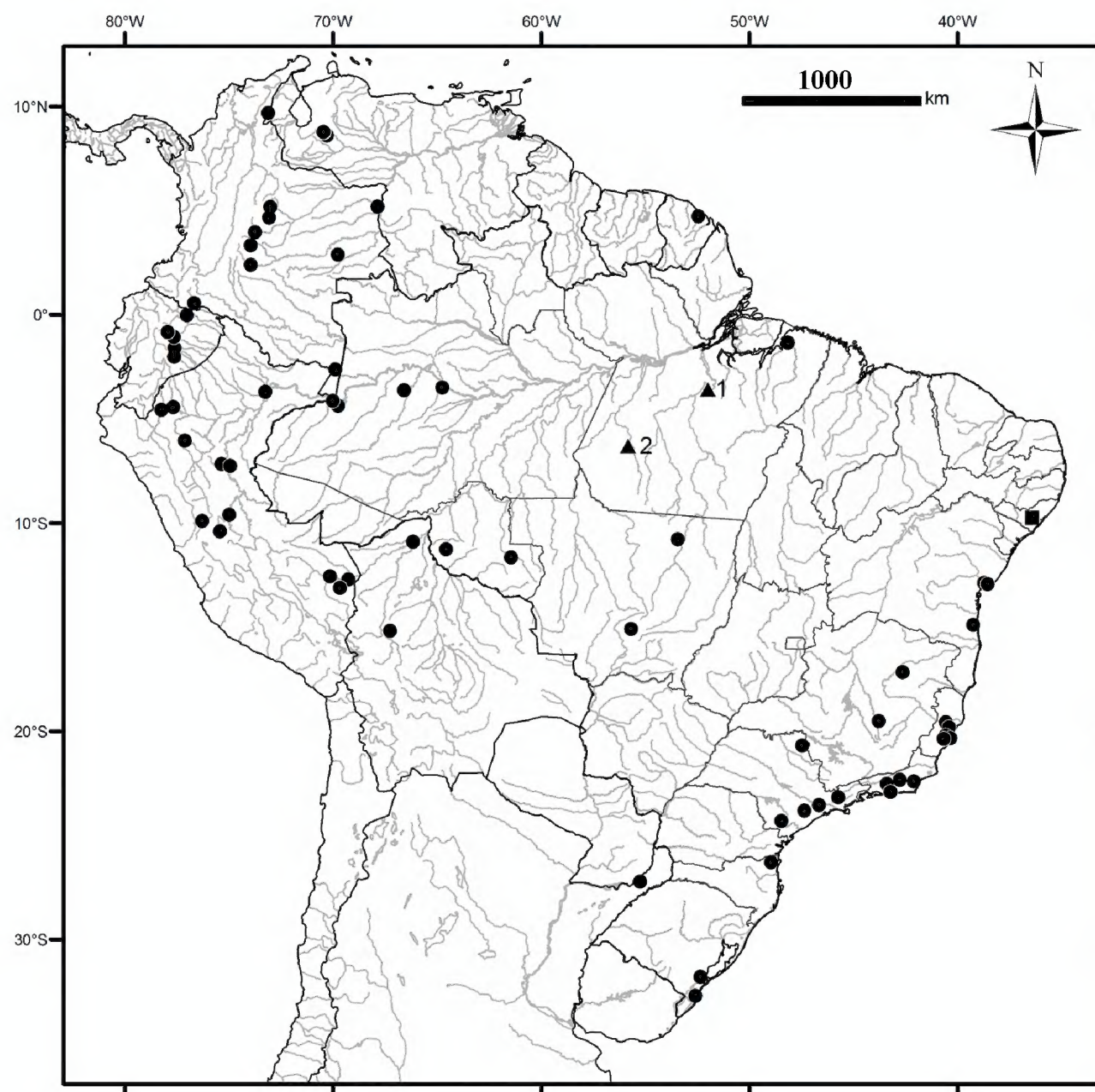


FIGURE 2. Geographic distribution map of *Siphonops annulatus*. Circles = literature records. Triangle 1 = Senador José Porfírio, Pará, Brazil; triangle 2 = Itaituba, Pará, Brazil. The record from Alagoas, although shown on the map (Square), lacks specific locality data (see Table 1).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: We thank Ulisses Caramaschii and Ross MacCulloch who provided valuable suggestions on the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

- Ab'Sáber, A.N., 1977. Os domínios morfoclimáticos na América do Sul. Primeira aproximação. *Geomorfologia* 52: 1-21, 1 map.
- Araujo, C.O., T.H. Condez, R.P. Bovo, F.C. Centeno and A.M. Luiz. 2010. Amphibians and reptiles of the Parque Estadual Turístico do Alto Ribeira (PETAR), SP: an Atlantic Forest remnant of Southeastern Brazil. *Biota Neotropica* 10(4): 257-274.
- Barrio-Amorós, C.L. and C.M. Rodríguez. 2010. Herpetofauna del Ramal de Calderas, Andes de Venezuela; p. 74-80 In A. Rial, J.C. Señaris, C.A. Lasso and A.L. Flores (ed.). Rapid assessment of the biodiversity of the Ramal Calderas, Venezuelan Andes. *RAP Bulletin of Biological Assessment* 56: 1-183.
- Bertoluci, J., M.A.S. Canelas, C.C. Eisemberg, C.F.S. Palmuti and G.G. Montingelli. 2009. Herpetofauna da Estação Ambiental de Peti, um fragmento de Mata Atlântica do estado de Minas Gerais, sudeste do Brasil. *Biota Neotropica* 9(1): 147-155.
- Borges-Nojosa, D.M. and P. Cascon. 2005. Herpetofauna da Área Reserva da Serra das Almas, Ceará; p. 245-260 In F.S. Araújo, M.J.N. Rodal and

- M.R.V. Barbosa (org.). *Análise das Variações da Biodiversidade do Bioma Caatinga*. Brasília: Ministério do Meio Ambiente.
- Condez, T.H., R.J. Sawaya and M. Dixo. 2009. Herpetofauna dos remanescentes de Mata Atlântica da região de Tapiraí e Piedade, SP, sudeste do Brasil. *Biota Neotropica* 9(1): 157-185.
- De la Riva, I. 1990. Lista preliminar comentada de los anfibios de Bolivia, con datos sobre su distribución. *Bollettino del Museo regionale di Scienze naturali, Torino* 8(1): 261-319.
- De la Riva, I., J. Köhler, S. Lötters and S. Reichle. 2000. Ten years of research on Bolivian amphibians: updated checklist, distribution, taxonomic problems, literature and iconography. *Revista Española de Herpetología* 14: 19-164.
- Doan, T.M. and W.A. Arriaga. 2002. Microgeographic Variation in Species Composition of the Herpetofaunal Communities of Tambopata Region, Peru. *Biotropica* 34(1): 101-117.
- Duellman, W.E. 1978. The Biology of an Equatorial Herpetofauna in Amazonian Ecuador. *The University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Miscellaneous Publications* 65: 1-352.
- Dunn, E.R. 1942. The American caecilians. *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology* 91(6): 439-540.
- Faria, H.A.B. and T. Mott. 2011. Geographic distribution of caecilians

(Gymnophiona, Amphibia) in the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil with a new state record for *Caecilia mertensi* Taylor 1973. *Herpetology Notes* 4: 053-056.

Feio, R.N. and U. Caramaschi. 1995. Aspectos zoogeográficos dos Anfíbios do Médio Rio Jequitinhonha, nordeste de Minas Gerais, Brasil. *Revista Ceres* 42(239): 53-61.

Ferreira, R.B., T. Silva-Soares and D. Rödder. 2010. Amphibians of Vitória, an urban area in south-eastern Brazil: first approximation. *Salamandra* 46(4): 187-196.

Freitas, M.A. and T.F.S. Silva. 2007. *Guia Ilustrado: A herpetofauna das Caatingas e Áreas de Altitudes do Nordeste Brasileiro*. Pelotas: USEB. 388 p.

Gayer, S.M.P., L. Krause and N. Gomes. 1988. Lista preliminar dos anf(bios da Estação Ecológica do Taim, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil. *Revista Brasileira de Zoologia* 5(3): 419-425.

González Fernández, J.E. 2006. Anfíbios colectados por la Comisión Científica del Pacífico (entre 1862 y 1865) conservados en el Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales de Madrid. *Graellsia* 62(1): 111-158.

Gower, D.J. and M. Wilkinson. 2005. Conservation biology of caecilian amphibians. *Conservation Biology* 19: 45-55.

Hedges, S.B., R.A. Nussbaum and L.R. Maxson. 1993. Cecilian Phylogeny and biogeography inferred from mitochondrial DNA sequences of the 12S rRNA and 16S rRNA genes (Amphibia: Gymnophiona). *Herpetological monographs* 7: 64-76.

Lehr, E. 2001. New Records for Amphibians and Reptiles from Departamentos Pasco and Ucayali, Peru. *Herpetological Review* 32(2): 130-132.

Lima, A.P., W.E. Magnusson, M. Menin, L.K. Erdtmann, D.J. Rodrigues, C. Keller and W. Hödl. 2006. Guia de Sapos da Reserva Adolpho Ducke, Amazônia Central. Manaus. Átemma Design Editorial. 168 p.

Lynch, J.D. 1999. Una aproximacion a las cuebras ciegas de Colombia (Amphibia: Gymnophiona). *Revista de la Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales* 23: 317-337.

Lynch, J.D. 2006. The Amphibian fauna in the Villavicencio region of eastern Colombia. *Caldasia* 28(1): 135-155.

Maciel, A.O. and M.S. Hoogmoed. 2011. Taxonomy and distribution of caecilian amphibians (Gymnophiona) of Brazilian Amazonia, with a key to their identification. *Zootaxa* 2984: 1-53.

Malagoli, L.R. 2008. Anfíbios do município de São Paulo: histórico, conhecimento atual e desafios para a conservação; p. 206-233. In L.R. Malagoli, F.B. Bajesteiro and M. Whately (ed.). *Além do concreto: contribuições para a proteção da biodiversidade paulistana*. São Paulo: Instituto Socioambiental.

Savage, J.M. and M.H. Wake. 2001. Reevaluation of the status of Central American caecilians (Amphibia: Gymnophiona), with comments on their origin and evolution. *Copeia* 2001: 52-64.

Schlüter, A., J. Icochea and J.M. Perez. 2004. Amphibians and reptiles of the lower Río Llullapichis, Amazonian Peru: updated species list with ecological and biogeographical notes. *Salamandra* 40(2): 141-160.

Silva, S.T., U.G. Silva, G.A.B. Sena and F.A.C. Nascimento. 2006. A biodiversidade da Mata Atlântica alagoana: anfíbios e répteis; p. 65-76 In F.B.P. Moura (org.). *A Mata Atlântica em Alagoas*. Maceió: EDUFAL. 88 p.

Spengel, F.W. 1915. Briefliche Mitteilung an den Herausgeber. *Blätter für Aquarien und Terrarienkunde* 26: 220.

Taylor, E.H. 1968. *The Caecilians of the World. A taxonomic review*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press. 848 p.

Tonini, J.F.R., L.M. Carão, I.S. Pinto, J.L. Gasparini, Y.L.R. Leite and L.P. Costa. 2010. Non-volant tetrapods from Reserva Biológica de Duas Bocas, State of Espírito Santo, Southeastern Brazil. *Biota Neotropica* 10(3): 339-351.

Vigle, G.O. 2008. The Amphibians and Reptiles of the Estación Biológica Jatun Sacha in the lowland rainforest of Amazonian Ecuador: a 20-Year Record. *Breviora* 513: 1-30.

Von May, R., K. Siu-Ting, J.M. Jacobs, M.M. Müller, G. Gagliardi, L.O. Rodríguez and M.A. Donnelly. 2009 Species Diversity and Conservation status of Amphibians in Madre de Dios, southern Peru. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 4(1): 14-29.

Wilkinson, M., A. Kupfer, R. Marques-Porto, H. Jeffkins, M.M. Antoniazzi and C. Jared. 2008. One hundred million years of skin feeding? Extended parental care in a Neotropical caecilian (Amphibia: Gymnophiona). *Biology Letters* 4: 358-361.

Zhang, P. and M.H. Wake. 2009. A mitogenomic perspective on the phylogeny and biogeography of living caecilians (Amphibia: Gymnophiona). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 53: 479-491.

RECEIVED: August 2012
ACCEPTED: January 2013
PUBLISHED ONLINE: March 2013
EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Ross MacCulloch

APPENDIX 1. Locality records of *Siphonops annulatus*, based on literature data and two new records.

LOCALITY	MUNICIPALITY / CITY	STATE / DEPARTMENT	COUNTRY	LATITUDE DECIMAL	LONGITUDE DECIMAL	LATITUDE DMS	LONGITUDE DMS	REFERENCE
Upper Rio Beni	San Ignacio	Misiones	Argentina	-27.25	-55.33	27°15' S	55°20' W	Taylor 1968
	Riberalta	El Beni	Bolivia	-10.98	-66.10	10°59' S	66°06' W	Dunn 1942; De la Riva 1990
		La Paz	Bolivia	-15.20	-67.22	15°12' S	67°13' W	Dunn 1942; Taylor 1968; De la Riva 1990
Lagoa Japaranão, near Tefé		Alagoas	Brazil	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Silva et al. 2006
	Juruá	Amazonas	Brazil	-3.48	-66.07	03°28'51" S	66°04'08" W	Maciel and Hoogmoed 2011
		Amazonas	Brazil	-3.50	-64.70	03°30' S	64°42' W	Dunn 1942; Taylor 1968
Isla Itaparica	Tabatinga	Amazonas	Brazil	-4.25	-69.94	04°15'10" S	69°56'16" W	Dunn 1942
	Itaparica	Bahia	Brazil	-12.88	-38.67	12°53' S	38°40' W	González Fernández 2006;
	Salvador	Bahia	Brazil	-12.97	-38.51	12°58' S	38°30' W	Freitas and Silva 2007
Rio Doce	Ilhéus	Bahia	Brazil	-14.79	-39.04	14°47'20" S	39°02'56" W	Wilkinson et al. 2008
		Espírito Santo	Brazil	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Dunn 1942
	Ibiraçu [Pau Gigante]	Espírito Santo	Brazil	-19.83	-40.37	19°49'55" S	40°22'12" W	Dunn 1942
Reserva Biológica Duas Bocas	Santa Teresa	Espírito Santo	Brazil	-19.94	-40.60	19°56'09" S	40°36'00" W	Dunn 1942
	Cariacica	Espírito Santo	Brazil	-20.23	-40.54	20°14'04" S	40°32'07" W	Tonini et al. 2010
	Vitória	Espírito Santo	Brazil	-20.32	-40.34	20°19'08" S	40°20'16" W	Ferreira et al. 2010
	Domingos Martins	Espírito Santo	Brazil	-20.36	-40.66	20°21'46" S	40°39'32" W	Zhang and Wake 2009
	Parque do Xingu	Mato Grosso	Brazil	-10.56	-53.46	10°33'48" S	53°27'50" W	Faria and Mott 2011



APPENDIX 1. CONTINUED.

LOCALITY	MUNICIPALITY / CITY	STATE / DEPARTMENT	COUNTRY	LATITUDE DECIMAL	LONGITUDE DECIMAL	LATITUDE DMS	LONGITUDE DMS	REFERENCE
Mendez, on Rio Jequitinhonha Estação Ambiental de Peti	Campo Novo dos Parecis	Mato Grosso	Brazil	-13.71	-57.99	13°42'36" S	57°59'33" W	Faria and Mott 2011
		Minas Gerais	Brazil	Not found	Not found	Not found	Not found	Dunn 1942
	São Gonçalo do Rio Abaixo and Santa Bárbara	Minas Gerais	Brazil	-19.87	-43.35	19°52' S	43°21' W	Bertoluci <i>et al.</i> 2009
	Minas Novas	Minas Gerais	Brazil	-17.20	-42.61	17°12' S	42°36' W	Feio and Caramaschi 1995
	Belém	Pará	Brazil	-1.46	-48.50	01°27'21" S	48°30'14" W	Spengel 1915
Serra de Macaé	Senador José Porfírio	Pará	Brazil	-3.59	-51.95	03°35'19" S	51°57'00" W	This study
	Itaituba	Pará	Brazil	-6.32	-55.79	06°19'12" S	55°47'24" W	This study
	Nova Friburgo	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	-22.28	-42.52	22°16'55" S	42°31'51" W	Dunn 1942
	Macaé	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	-22.37	-41.78	22°22'15" S	41°47'13" W	Dunn 1942
	Teresópolis	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	-22.41	-42.95	22°24'43" S	42°57'57" W	Dunn 1942; Taylor 1968
	Petrópolis	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	-22.51	-43.17	22°30'18" S	43°10'44" W	Dunn 1942
	Rio de Janeiro	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	-22.90	-43.21	22°54'10" S	43°12'28" W	Taylor 1968
	Pelotas	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	-31.77	-52.34	31°46'19" S	52°20'34" W	Dunn 1942
	Rio Grande and Santa Vitória do Palmar	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	-32.72	-52.58	32°43'22" S	52°34'37" W	Gayer <i>et al.</i> 1988
	Guajará-Mirim	Rondônia	Brazil	-10.78	-65.33	10°46'58" S	65°20'20" W	Maciel and Hoogmoed 2011
Estação Ecológica de Taim	Espigão d'Oeste	Rondônia	Brazil	-11.53	-61.00	11°31'30" S	61°00'46" W	Maciel and Hoogmoed 2011
	Joinville	Santa Catarina	Brazil	-26.30	-48.83	26°18'14" S	48°50'45" W	Dunn 1942
	Franca	São Paulo	Brazil	-20.54	-47.40	20°32'20" S	47°24'03" W	Dunn 1942
	Taubaté	São Paulo	Brazil	-23.03	-45.56	23°01'33" S	45°33'18" W	Dunn 1942
	São Paulo	São Paulo	Brazil	-23.55	-46.64	23°32'52" S	46°38'09" W	Malagoli 2008
	Tapiraí and Piedade	São Paulo	Brazil	-23.82	-47.33	23°49' S	47°20' W	Condez <i>et al.</i> 2009
	Apiáí and Ioprangea	São Paulo	Brazil	-24.28	-48.45	24°17' S	48°27' W	Araujo <i>et al.</i> 2010
	Leticia	Amazonas	Colombia	-4.15	-69.95	04°09' S	69°57' W	Lynch 1999
	Tarapacá	Amazonas	Colombia	-2.87	-69.73	02°52' S	69°44' W	Lynch 1999
	Aguazul	Casanare	Colombia	5.20	-72.55	05°12' N	72°33' W	Lynch 1999
Guaicaramo	Paratebueno	Cundinamarca	Colombia	4.67	-73.07	04°40' N	73°04' W	Dunn 1942
Río Ocoa	Villavicencio	Meta	Colombia	4.15	-73.62	04°09' N	73°37' W	Dunn 1942; Taylor 1968; Lynch 1999
	ca. 5 km E. Villavicencio	Meta	Colombia	4.13	-73.25	04°08' N	73°15' W	Lynch 1999
	Acacias	Meta	Colombia	3.98	-73.77	03°59' N	73°46' W	Lynch 2006
	Cubarral	Meta	Colombia	3.78	-73.85	03°47' N	73°51' W	Lynch 1999
	Mesetas	Meta	Colombia	3.38	-74.04	03°22' N	74°02' W	Lynch 1999
Parque Nacional Natural El Tuparro	La Maracena	Meta	Colombia	2.75	-73.92	02°45' N	73°55' W	Lynch 1999
	Puerto Asís	Putamayo	Colombia	0.50	-76.52	00°30' N	76°31' W	Taylor 1968; Lynch 1999
	Tena	Vichada	Colombia	5.32	-68.47	05°19' N	68°28' W	Lynch 1999
	Santa Cecilia	Napo	Ecuador	-0.99	-77.82	00°59' S	77°46' W	Hedges <i>et al.</i> 1993
		Napo	Ecuador	0.05	-76.98	00°03' N	76°59' W	Duellman 1978
Estación Biológica Jatun Sasha		Napo	Ecuador	-1.07	-77.62	01°04' S	77°37' W	Vigle 2008
	Sarayacu	Pastaza	Ecuador	-1.73	-77.48	01°44' S	77°29' W	Dunn 1942
Rio Pastaza			Ecuador	-2.01	-77.63	02°01' S	77°38' W	Dunn 1942

APPENDIX 1. CONTINUED.

LOCALITY	MUNICIPALITY / CITY	STATE / DEPARTMENT	COUNTRY	LATITUDE DECIMAL	LONGITUDE DECIMAL	LATITUDE DMS	LONGITUDE DMS	REFERENCE
Mouth of Santiago, upper Maranon	Cayenne		French Guiana	4.92	-52.32	04°55' N	52°19' W	Dunn 1942
Rio Cenipa, upper Maranon		Amazonas	Peru	-4.45	-77.63	04°27' S	77°38' W	Dunn 1942
lower Río Llullapichis		Amazonas	Peru	-4.58	-78.20	04°35' S	78°12' W	Dunn 1942
		Huanuco	Peru	-9.62	-74.95	09°37' S	74°57' W	Schlüter et al. 2004
	Huanuco	Huanuco	Peru	-9.92	-76.23	09°55' S	76°14' W	Taylor 1968
Rio Itaya	Iquitos	Loreto	Peru	-3.72	-73.20	03°43' S	73°12' W	Dunn 1942
	San Antonio	Loreto	Peru	-3.78	-73.23	03°47' S	73°14' W	Dunn 1942
Pampa Hermosa, middle Ucayali, mouth of Cushatabay	Ucayali	Loreto	Peru	-7.17	-75.30	07°10' S	75°18' W	Dunn 1942
East of Contamana [Contamna], Brazil frontier	Ucayali	Loreto	Peru	-7.25	-74.90	07°15' S	74°54' W	Dunn 1942
Los Amigos Research Center		Madre de Dios	Peru	-12.57	-70.10	12°34' S	70°06' W	Von May et al. 2009
	Puerto Maldonado	Madre de Dios	Peru	-12.60	-69.18	12°36' S	69°11' W	De la Riva et al. 2000
Tambopata Research Center	Tambopata	Madre de Dios	Peru	-13.15	-69.62	13°08'43" S	69°37'02" W	Doan and Arriaga 2002
Pozuzo	Oxapampa	Pasco	Peru	-10.11	-75.53	10°07'01" S	75°32'11" W	Lehr 2001
	Moyobamba [Moyabamba]	San Martín	Peru	-6.05	-76.97	06°03' S	76°58' W	Dunn 1942
	Barinitas	Barinas	Venezuela	8.75	-70.42	08°45' N	70°25' W	Barrio-Amorós and Rodríguez 2010
	Barinas	Barina [Zamora]	Venezuela	8.63	-70.20	08°38' N	70°12' W	Dunn 1942